CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1     1.    A portable device, comprising:

2          an interface to receive at least one file and a transfer count associated with

3    the file from another device; and

4          a controller to be communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller

5    to allow transfer of the file based on the associated transfer count.


1     2.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives at least one

2    file containing digital music.


1     3.    The portable device of claim 2, wherein the interface receives the

2    associated transfer count embedded in the file.


1     4.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller allows a selected

2    number of transfers of the file based on the value indicated by the transfer count.


1     5.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller transfers the file

2    and decrements the associated transfer count by one in response to a successful transfer.


1     6.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives a copy of

2    the file, and wherein the file is an encrypted file.


1     7.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the portable device is a Secure

2    Digital Music Initiative compliant device.

1    8.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives the file from
2    another portable device.

1    9.    The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller to allow transfer of
2    the file comprises the controller to allow transmission of a copy of the file.

1    10.    A method, comprising:
2        selecting at least one music file from a first portable device to transfer to a
3    second portable device;
4        transferring the music file to the second portable device; and
5        transmitting a preselected transfer count to the second portable device,
6    wherein the preselected transfer count is indicative of the number of times the second
7    portable device may transfer the music file to one or more devices.

1    11.    The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises
2    transferring an encrypted music file.

1    12.    The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the encrypted file comprises
2    transmitting a copy of the encrypted music file to the second portable device.

1    13.    The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the preselected transfer
2    count comprises transmitting a preselected transfer count of zero.

1    14.    The method of claim 10, further comprising accessing a transfer count
2    associated with the file in the first portable device and updating the transfer count in
3    response to successfully transferring the music file to the second portable device.

1    15.    The method of claim 14, wherein updating the transfer count comprises
2    decrementing the transfer count in the first portable device by one.

1    16.    The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises
2    transmitting a copy of the music file to the second portable device.


1    17.    An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media
2    containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:
3                receive at least one music file and a transfer count associated with the
4    music file from another device, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the number of
5    times the music file may be transferred to one or more of devices; and
6                store at least one of the music file and the associated transfer count.


1    18.    The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2    processor to allow the music file to be transferred to the one or more devices based on the
3    transfer count.


1    19.    The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2    processor to reduce the transfer count by one in response to each successful transfer of
3    the music file to the one or more devices.


1    20.    The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2    processor to transmit a preselected transfer count for the music file transferred to the one
3    or more devices, wherein the preselected transfer count indicates the number of times the
4    file may be transferred by the one or more devices.


1    21.    The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2    processor to transfer the preselected transfer count indicating that no further transfers by
3    the one or more devices are allowed.


1    22.    The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2    processor to receive the transfer count embedded in the music file.

1    23.    A portable music player, comprising:

2            an interface to communicate with a remote portable music player; and

3            a controller communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller to:

4                allow a user to select at least one music file to transfer to the

5    remote portable music player;

6                determine if transfer of the selected file is allowed;

7                transmit the selected file to the remote portable music player in

8    response to determining that the transfer is allowed; and

9                transmit an indication to the remote portable music player

10    indicating the number of times the remote portable music player may transfer the

11    transmitted file.


1    24.    The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller reduces a

2    transfer count associated with the transmitted file.


1    25.    The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller transmits the

2    selected file to a Secure Digital Music Initiative compliant music player.


1    26.    A system comprising:

2            a host computer; and

3            a portable device communicatively coupled to the host computer, the

4    portable device to receive from the host computer at least one music file and a transfer

5    count associated with the music file, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the

6    number of times the portable device may transfer the music file.


1    27.    The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a music player.


1    28.    The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device receives the transfer

2    count indicating that the portable device may not transfer the music file to other devices.

1       29.    The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a Secure Digital

2    Music Initiative compliant portable device.


1       30.    The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device further transfers the

2    music file to another device based on determining that the transfer count is greater than

3    one.